Limited. The Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Limited had been commissioned for preparation of the feasibility report. The proposed capacity is 1 million tonnes per annum, which will be implemented in two modules. The first module is expected to be ready for commissioning by 1995, and the second module proposed to be set up by 1997.

Purchase of coal by SAIL

4250. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantity of coal purchased by SAIL since February, 1990 from abroad, at which rate of landing cost, and by which parties;

(b) whether the lowest tenders were awarded contracts if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take against the Director Commercial and RM for incurring huge financial losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Since February, 1990 Steel Authority of India Limited have floated two global tenders in 2 part tender system. After techno-commercial evalution of the bids the parties were short listed for further price negotiations so as to obtain favourable prices. The orders were placed on Coal Corporation (NZ Blend) of New Zeland, ARCO(ARCO), Clutha (Wollondilly), MIM/ETA (Collins), MIM (Oakey Cr.) BUCL (GLS). TDM (River side), BUCL (Goonyella B), and KCC (Tahmoor) all from Australia for 2.00 million tonnes of coking coal and the C&F price ranged between US $ 70.00 and 73.62. Further, Steel Authority of India Limited have concluded agreements through direct negotiations for supply of 1.73 million tonnes of coking coal from Coal Corporation (West Coast Premium) of New Zealand, Sojuzpromexport (Sibir) of erstwhile U.S.S.R., Weglokoks (Row-35) of Poland, S.B.W. (S.B.W.) and B.H.P. (G.B., Countertrade) of Australia. The price ranges from US dallar 71.10 to US dollar 81.88.

(c) Steel Authority of India Limited have not incurred any financial losses in this context. Hence, no action is warranted.

Occupational Health in Indian Iron and Steel Company

4251. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Iron and Steel Company has undertaken to upgrade its occupational health at Burnpur;

(b) whether it has become necessary because occupational health is posing problems to the authorities;

(c) if so, what is the status report on occupational Health at Burnpur;

(d) the number of workers that are affected and the number of those workers who would get treatment; and

(e) whether effective measures are being taken to upgrade working condition inside the factory; if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. As a part of occupational health policy of SAIL, continuous medical as well as environmental monitoring is being conducted at IISCO.

(d) No such case of occupational diseases has been detected so far;

(e) The following effective measures are being taken at IISCO to upgrade working conditions inside the factory;

(i) Effective use of Dust extraction system at Reclamation Bunker of Ore Handling Plant and at Raw Materials Yard, Elevator House and Smoke Chamber of Dolomite Plant;

(ii) Effective water spray system at various dusty areas of Coal Handling Plant, Blast Furnaces, etc. for dust suppression;

(iii) Istallation or self sealing doors at No. 8 and 9 Coke Oven Batteries;

(iv) Regular repairing of steam leakages for reducing noise level;

(v) Regular drive to improve overall house keeping work including frequent inspection of hazardous and fire prone areas;

(vi) All damaged|worn out toxic gas transmission lines, as identified by special Inspection Committee, changed to improve working environment.

(vii) Plantation of trees, etc.

Functioning of Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel

4252. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) what are the present functions and activities of Development Commissioner of Iron and Steel after decontrol of steel;

(b) whether Development Commissioner of Iron and Steel is still having the distribution control for specific sectors; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and power conferred after decontrol?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The present functions of the Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel are at Statement. (See below)

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel, would ensure distribution of iron and steel materials on priority to the designated sectors, i.e., Defence, Railways, small scale industries sector, the exporters of engineering goods and the North Eastern States.

Administrative instructions have been issued to the Development Commissioner for Iron & Steel to ensure supply of iron and steel materials on priority to these sectors.

Statement

Present functions of the Office of the Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel

With deregulation of distribution and pricing of iron and steel, the major functions of the Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel are as follows:

(a) Collection, processing and dissemination of basic information relating to the iron ad steel industry and to act as the data bank of the Ministry of Steel;

(b) Monitoring of regional price and supply trends and suggesting to the Ministry the remedial measures for correcting the imbalances, if any;

(c) Clearances in respect of import and export of iron and steel materials and their monitoring;

(d) Advise on matters relating to import and export policies of iron and steel.

(e) Management of distribution of iron and steel materials to the newly designated priority sector such as Defence, Railways, State Small Industries Corporations, Engineering Goods and the North-Eastern States;

(f) Allocation of materials to the State Small Scale Industries Corporations;

(g) Allocations of material to remote area like North Eastern States, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep Islands;

(h) Assistance to Engineering Goods Export units through priority allocations and monitorng thereof;

(i) Operation of the Engineering Goods Export Assistance Fund and the Steel Development Fund.

(j) Rendering assistance to the Electric are furnace for units and the secondary sector by way of capacity assessment, assistance in procurement of indigenous and imported raw materials and import substitution measures, aiming at the overall development of the sector.

(k) Interface between the Government and the different consumer groups